

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original) A method of speech encoding, comprising:

- (a) determine bandpass voicing levels for a frame of speech;
- (b) determine a zero-phase equalization filter for said frame wherein harmonics which fall into a band that was determined to have a voicing level below a threshold in step (a) are replaced for said zero-phase equalization filter.

Claim 2 (original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

- (a) said determining bandpass voicing of step (a) uses the frequency bands 0-500 Hz, 500-1000 Hz, 1000-2000 Hz, 2000-3000 Hz, and 3000-4000 Hz.